

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4319

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMDASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OAU AO PFORHPDEV

SUBJECT: OUA COMMITTEE ARRIVES

1. THE CONCILIATION COMMITTEE FROM THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY ARRIVED IN LUANDA TPE AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 10. THE GROUP, COMPOSED OF SOME SIXTY PEOPLE, WAS GIVEN AN ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION BY THE MPLA AND ITS SUPPORTERS, WHO TURNED OUT IN LARGE NUMBERS AT THE PALACE TO LISTEN TO SPEECHES AND SHOUT THEIR SUPPORT FOR MPLA. VOLUNTEERS WORKED FOR DAYS PAINTING OVER UNITA AND FNLA GRAFFITI AND PUTTING UP MPLA POSTERS. SQUADS WORKED NIGHTS CLEANING STREETS AND SPRUCING UP THE CITY. POTHOLES WERE PATCHED. LEAFLETS DROPPED FROM AN FNLA PLANE WERE COLLECTED AND BY THE TIME THE COMMITTEE ARRIVED THERE EXISTED SCARCELY A TRACE OF THE FORMER PRESENCE HERE OF UNITA AND FNLA.

2. THE CROWD AT THE PALACE WAS LARGE, ENTHUSIASTIC AND ORDERLY. MOUNTED CONSTABULARY PUT ON AN IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY OF CROWD CONTROL. MPLA ORGANIZATIONAL ABILITY SHOWED IN THE NUMBER AND VARIETY OF SIGNS IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH; THE MAIN THEME WAS THAT ONLY MPLA HAS THE RIGHT TO GOVERN ANGOLA. WHEN THE UGANDAN MINISTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHO ADDRESSED THE CROWD ON BEHALF OF THE

COMMITTEE, URGED RECONCILIATION OF THE THREE MOVEMENTS HE WAS GREETED WITH A TREMENDOUS SHOUT OF "NO". PERHAPS THE MOST DRAMATIC ASPECT OF THE TABLEAU ON THE BALCONY OF THE PALACE WAS THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE BLACK FACES OF MOST OF THE OAU COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND THE WHITES AND MESTIZOS REPRESENTING MPLA. SPEAKERS FOR THE MPLA INSISTED THERE WILL BE NO ACCOMMODATION WITH EITHER UNITA OR FNLA.

3. AN FNLA ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT THE CITY AND SHOW THE VULNERABILITY OF THE MPLA TO ATTACK BY BOMBING RADIO TRANSMITTERS NORTH OF LUANDA DID NOT HAVE ANY VISIBLE EFFECT. THE RADIO STATION CONTINUED TO FUNCTION. MPLA ISSUED A DENUNCIATION AND SAID IT WOULD SHOOT DOWN ALL UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT ENTERING ITS "AIR SPACE". THE ONLY IMMEDIATE REACTION WAS A REFUSAL BY AIR TAXI PILOTS TO FLY AT ALL.

4. IN REMARKS MADE BEFORE THE OAU COMMITTEE OVER THE WEEKEND, MPLA PRESIDENT AGOSTINHO NETO STATED THAT THE MPLA WILL NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THE EXISTENCE IN ANGOLA OF ANY OTHER LIBERATION MOVEMENT. HE ADDED THAT IT IS HIS INTENTION TO ESTABLISH FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN THE FUTURE. KILLORAN

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